

Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner still rejected pending claims 1-16 as being not clear. In particular, the applicant rejected the amendments made to the specification since they were considered as added subject matter.

The applicant respectfully observes that the amended specification passage should be considered as an amendment of a clerical error.

In fact, as explained in the applicant's last letter, there would be no reason why on one branch a certain frequency should be used (four times the band-frequency) while on the other branch a different frequency (two-times the band-frequency) is used.

The two signals are inherently in quadrature and this should obviously imply that the applicant made a clerical error while drafting the specification.

This should also be confirmed by the fact that on page 3, lines 26-28 of the specification as originally filed, that is the passage that immediately follows the passage wherein the clerical error occurred (i.e. passage on page 3, lines 19-25) it is stated that "*The selection means 8 conveniently comprise a selector 10 and an oscillator 11 adapted to generate a square wave whose frequency is twice the band-center frequency of the signal to be converted 1.*"

Thus, it should be appreciated that the selection means are said to emit a signal with a frequency that is twice the band-center frequency of the signal to be converted and not four times (on only one branch) as erroneously recited in the preceding passage of the specification.

Also the second embodiment of the invention, disclosed on page 4, lines 23 onwards, should confirm what the applicant is trying to demonstrate.

In fact, in the second embodiment of the invention, the selection means 8 are different from the selection means 8 of the first embodiment, in that they include a first couple of adders

and an oscillator, and a second couple of adders.

The oscillator is said to generate a square wave signal with a frequency that is twice the frequency of the signal to be converted.

The square wave signal generated by the oscillator is then added in normal form and in inverted form in the adders 18 and 19.

Thus, also in the second embodiment it is clarified that the frequency is twice the frequency of the signal to be converted.

In view of the above, then applicant is confident that the Examiner will reconsider the added subject-matter rejection and that such a rejection could be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected to the fact that although the DC offset 13 is implemented so as to avoid removing the DC-components at the threshold circuits 12 and 13, those circuits are still present in figure 3.

To this regard it is observed that the threshold circuits 12 and 13 are not intended to remove the DC component but only part of the signal, as recited on page 5, lines 1-6 of the specification as originally filed.

In fact, on page 6, first paragraph it is recited that the threshold circuits 12 and 13 remove part of the signal, as in the previous embodiment of figure 2, but the signals that are input to the threshold circuits 12 and 13 are first passed through the DC offset 23.

Thus, in the specification it is clearly recognized that the threshold circuits have to be present also in the second embodiment of the invention, despite of the presence of the DC offset.

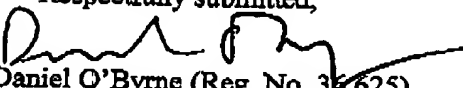
It is thus believed that no incongruence is present in figure 3.

As far as the other Examiner's objections, the applicant will try to add further drawings that should better explain what the Examiner actually believes to be not clear.

As suggested by the Examiner, the applicant, in the very first days of the new year, will

contact the Examiner by mail so as to arrange a phone conversation to clarify all the items.

Respectfully submitted,



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